



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-6149

November 03, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE 104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUBJECT: (415 ILCS 20/) Illinois Solid Waste Management Act

In compliance with 415 ILCS Part 20/3, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) shall report each year to the General Assembly the following information:

1. The volume of compost used in State highway construction projects;
2. The status of compost and compost-based products used in State highway construction projects; and
3. Recommendations to maximize the use of compost as a recycled material in State highway construction projects.

Regarding Item 1:

IDOT utilized 515 square yards of compost on State highway projects over the reporting time frame (from 9/20/2024 to 8/1/2025), as shown in Figure 2 in the Appendix generated from IDOT's bidding report software.

Regarding Item 2:

Compost is used for State highway construction projects primarily in landscaping projects, such as the planting of trees or shrubs when required. For example, over the past reported timeframe, IDOT had 2 contracts utilizing compost out of a total of 958 contracts (See Figure 2).

Regarding Item 3:

Article 1081.05(b) of the IDOT Standard Specifications on Road and Bridge Construction defines compost as "thoroughly decomposed organic waste produced at an IEPA-registered composting facility. The compost shall have no glass or metal shards present. Any plastic or other man-made material shall be no larger than 1/4 in. (6 mm) and sieved out to be less than one percent of the total dry weight. A copy of the compost test results complying with IEPA standards for General Use Compost and certification of IEPA registration shall be provided to the Engineer with each shipment of compost."

Currently, there are 54 IEPA compost facilities distributed across the state in the following manner:

IDOT District	Number of facilities
1	21
2	4
3	7
4	3
5	5
6	3
7	1
8	5
9	5
Total	54

Figure 1

Number of IEPA Compost Facilities

The IEPA has two categories of compost: landscape waste compost and organic waste compost, including food waste. Each type is regulated by different sets of regulations. 415 ILCS Part 20/3 does not distinguish which type of compost is to be used for State highway construction contracts. Per the IDOT Standard Specifications on Road and Bridge Construction landscape waste compost is planting mulch. Therefore, compost as defined above is added to planting beds.

Compost use is maximized as a limited number of highway projects require landscaping and utilize compost. Additional IEPA compost facilities would facilitate use of compost by reducing transport distance.

Sincerely,



Gia Biagi
Secretary

Appendix

ILLINOIS
PI SEARCH REPORT

bidTABS.NET

Date: 10/20/2025
Time: 03:31:47 PM

STRAIGHT AVERAGE: \$12.50 | WEIGHTED AVERAGE: \$6.17 | AVERAGE QUANTITY: 256.000 | COUNT: 2

Pay Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Bid Date	Bidder Name	ProjectID	County	Region	Pos
21101805	COMPOST FURNISH AND PLACE, 2"	40.000	S.Y.	20.00	3/7/2025	LORIG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	62P43	COOK	1	1
21101805	COMPOST FURNISH AND PLACE, 2"	472.000	S.Y.	5.00	9/20/2024	WALSH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY II, LLC	62R25	WILL	1	1

REPORT PARAMETERS	
Position	Only Low
Description	compost
Date Range	9/20/2024 to 8/1/2025
Project Type	All Project Types
Option	Standard and Non-Standard Payitems
Exact Match	False
User ID	charlie.ragsdale@illinois.gov
Jobprefix	
Usecrossreference	False

Figure 2
Total Compost Usage in Square Yards for the Reporting Timeframe

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LETTING: 09/20/2024 to 08/01/2025

Year	Letting Total	No. Jobs	% Change	Avg # Bids
2025	\$2,750,463,669.91	758	242.62%	2.74
2024	\$802,767,943.34	200	-	3.14

REPORT PARAMETERS	
Date Range	9/20/2024 to 8/1/2025
Project Type	All Project Types
Subtotal	Year
User ID	charlie.ragsdale@illinois.gov
Fiscalyearoffset	1

Figure 3
Total Number of Jobs for the Reporting Timeframe